



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913

PH (517) 373.6960 | FAX (517) 373.0897

www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/jelinek/

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 9, 2003

Contact: Senator Ron Jelinek
1-866-305-2121

Senator Jelinek to Introduce Recall Election Bill

Special elections would be held at next regularly scheduled election

LANSING--State Sen. Ron Jelinek (R-Three Oaks) announced today that he will be introducing a bill next week to amend the Michigan election law to eliminate holding special elections for recall petitions. Under the bill, recall elections would instead take place at the next regularly scheduled election.

“Eliminating the extra elections will improve fiscal responsibility by eliminating the cost of holding special elections while also increasing voter turnout,” said Jelinek. “The recall would simply be added as another item on the general election ballot.”

Currently, the law states that the special election must be held within 60 days after the petition is submitted to the county scheduling committee. Holding a special election can vary in cost depending on the size of the township or city. According to the Berrien County Clerk’s office, it can range anywhere from \$1,800 to \$6,000, or even higher in some cases.

“Multiply those amounts by the number of elections that take place in each county and the amount is staggering. In a time of shrinking budgets, every penny that can be saved is helpful,” said Jelinek.

The following shows an estimated cost of special elections in Jelinek’s three counties (the number of elections actually held has been multiplied by an average cost of \$3500):

- In Berrien County, since 1998, there have been 69 recall petitions filed. Of those filings, 22 special recall elections were held. From those elections, 10 office holders were recalled, 11 were not, and one is currently pending. Cost: ~\$77,000
- In Van Buren County in the last 5 years, 35 recall petitions were filed, 8 special elections were held and no one was recalled. Cost: ~\$28,000
- In Cass County, 44 recall petitions were filed, 1 special election was held and no one was recalled. Cost: ~\$3500

Editor's Note:

Comments from Senator Jelinek on his recall election legislation are available for download on the Senate Majority Audiowire at www.senate.michigan.gov/gop

The comments are also available by calling the radio hotline at 517-373-4000